

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-15, 18-30, and 33-43 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 2-3, 16-17, and 31-32 are canceled.

Claims 1-6, 8-20, 22-35, and 37-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando et al. (U.S. Patent 6,609,175) in view of Sakamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,609,175). However, the present invention is an optical recording medium having “a plurality of information carrier storage means that interact with each other, including by nonlinear diffusion of information carriers.” (Claims 1, 15 and 30; Claim 29 contains similar limitations) For example, the plurality of information carrier means may be in the form of a 128x128 array of storage elements. (Specification page 7) Information is stored by inputting information carriers in each element. Over time, the information carriers may dissipate or diffuse into neighboring elements. In this manner, the elements are said to “interact with each other.” By contrast, Ando and Sakamoto are directed to optical recording disks (e.g. CDs or DVDs) wherein information is

stored in fixed grooves or lands on the disk surface. (Sakamoto Figure 6; Ando Figure 36) In both Ando and Sakamoto the stored information does not diffuse, dissipate, or interact with other stored information. Therefore, for at least this reason, Ando and Sakamoto fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

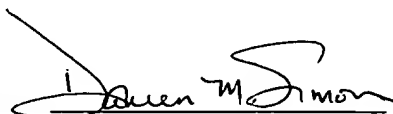
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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